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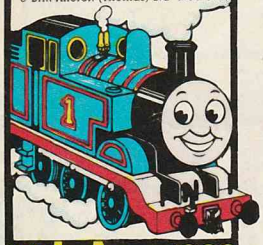


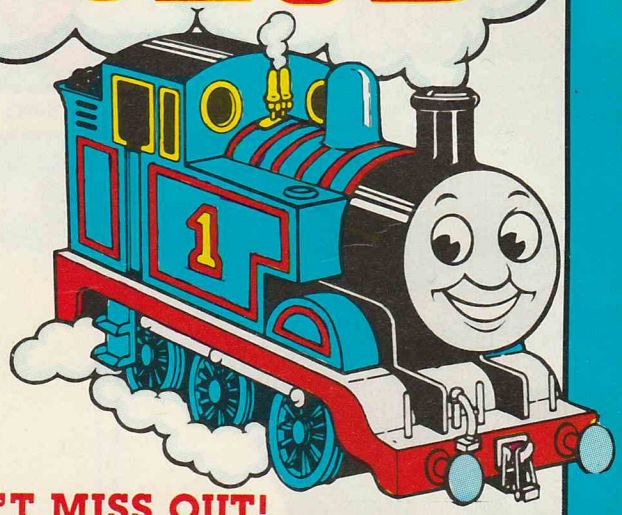
16th Apr. 1988
No.13 35p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

Gordon falls in a ditch!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE!



Oh dear! Gordon and Thomas both behave badly in this issue. They are both in disgrace and the Fat Controller is not pleased at all. What can they have done? Read on!

Calling all Club members!

The Fat Controller would like to print a page of drawings from Thomas Club members. How would you like to draw a colourful picture of your favourite engine and see it in **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**? Send your drawings, together with your name, address, age and **membership number** to: *Drawings for the Fat Controller, Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.* **Club members only!**

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If you'd like to join, either take out a year's subscription, or collect 3 tokens like the one at the bottom of this page. There's a token in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Send them, together with a self-addressed envelope (21cm x 16cm) complete with 18p stamp, to: *The Thomas Club, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.* You will be sent a splendid Club Pack!

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THOMAS ON TV!

Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends are back on television every **Wednesday** at 4 o'clock, on ITV. **Don't miss us!**

A BALLOON FOR YOU!

In the next issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** there will be a splendid **Thomas balloon** from *Deeko plc* – just for **you!**

Peep! Peep! A balloon for you!

THOMAS TOKEN

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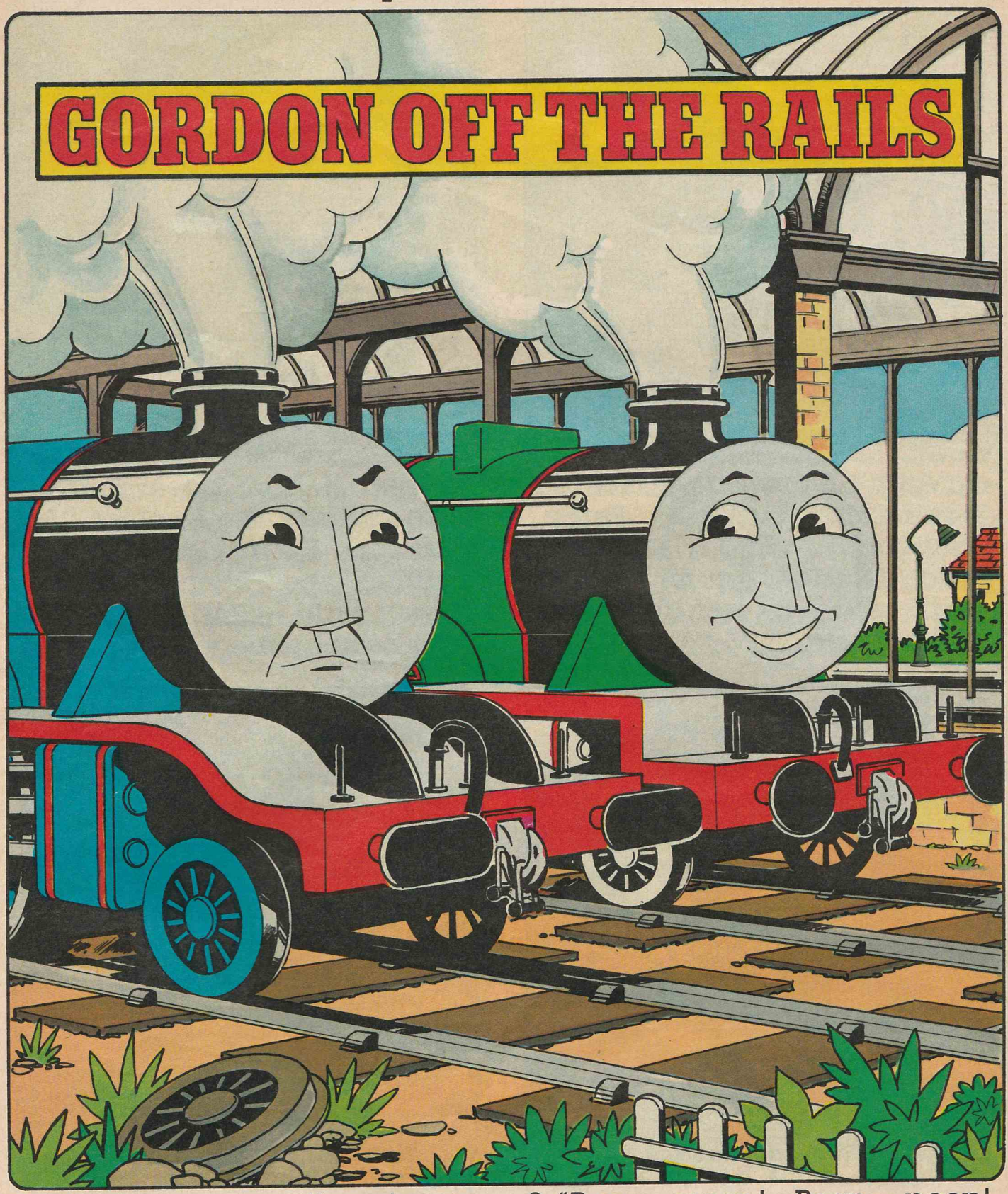
A listen and look story!

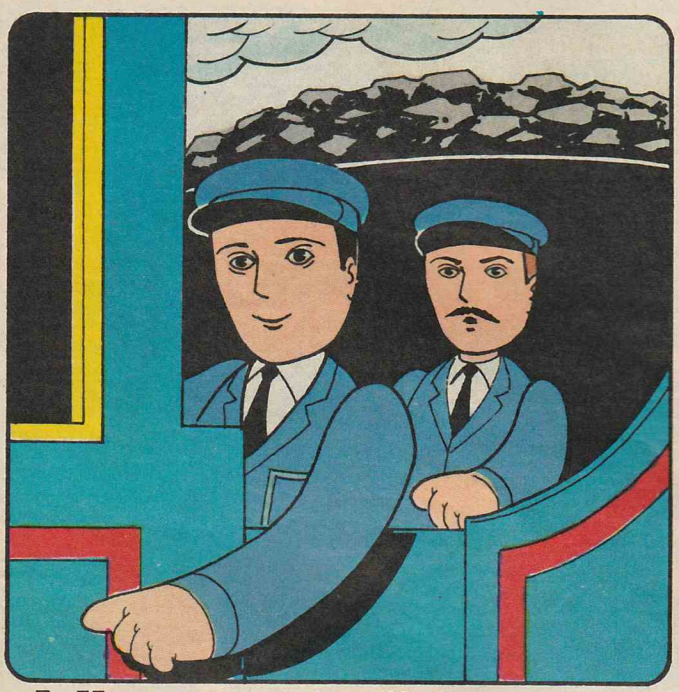


1. Gordon was resting in a siding. "It's really tiring to be such a large, splendid engine," he thought. "One does have to keep up one's appearance so."

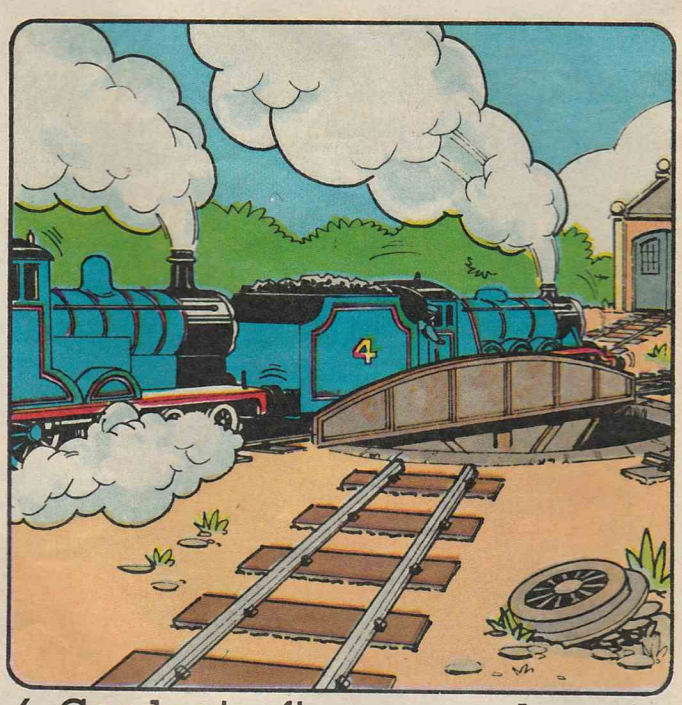
2. "Peep, peep! Peep, peep! Hullo, Fatface!" whistled Henry. "What cheek!" Gordon spluttered. "Fancy speaking to me like that! **Meeee** who has never had an accident!"

3. "Aren't burst safety valves accidents?" asked Percy, innocently. "No, indeed!" said Gordon crossly. "Just high spirits! It's not like coming off the rails!"

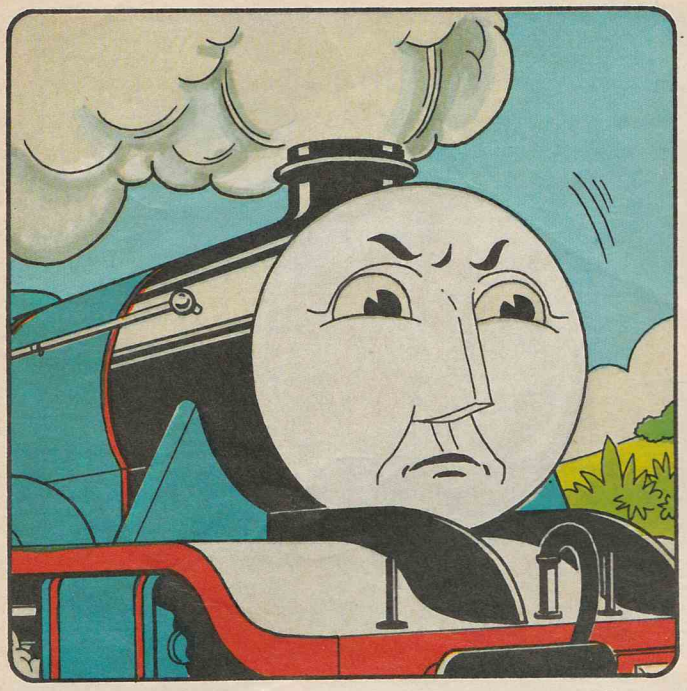
4. Then it had been Henry's turn to take the express. "Be careful, Henry, you're not pulling the 'Flying Kipper' now," said Gordon. "Mind you keep on the rails today."



5. Henry went off in a huff. "We have a Special Train to pull," said Gordon's driver. "Coaches or trucks?" asked Gordon. "Trucks," said his driver. **"Pah!"** said Gordon.

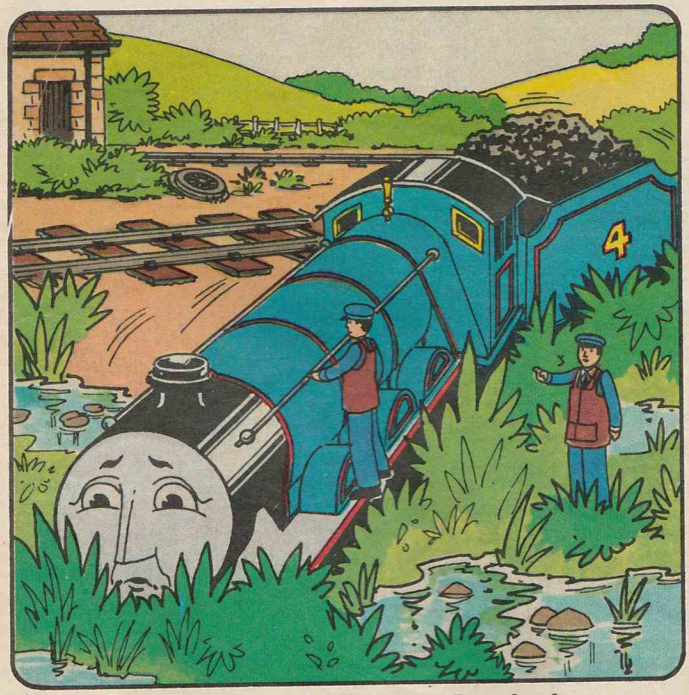


6. Gordon's fire was slow to start, so Edward had to push him to the turntable to get him facing the right way. "I don't want to go! I don't want to go!" moaned Gordon.

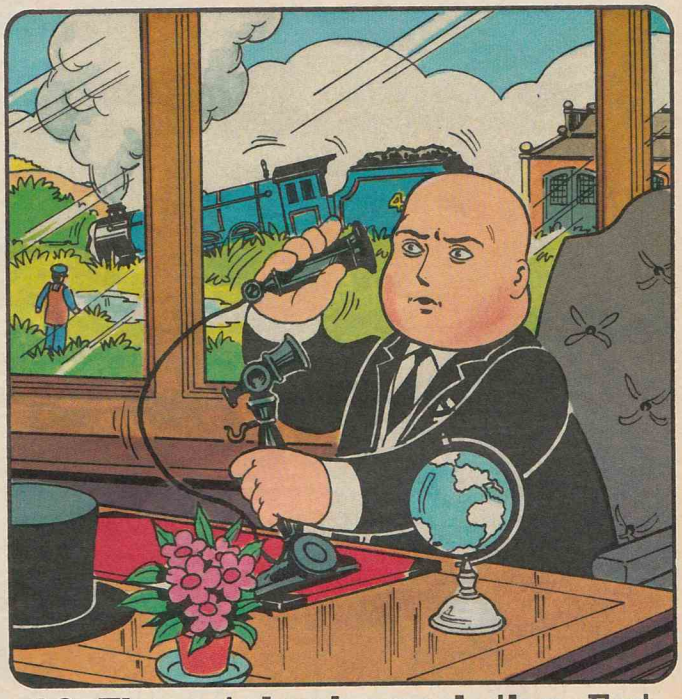


7. At last Gordon was on the turntable. The movement had shaken his fire, so it was burning nicely and making steam. But Gordon was cross and didn't care what he did.

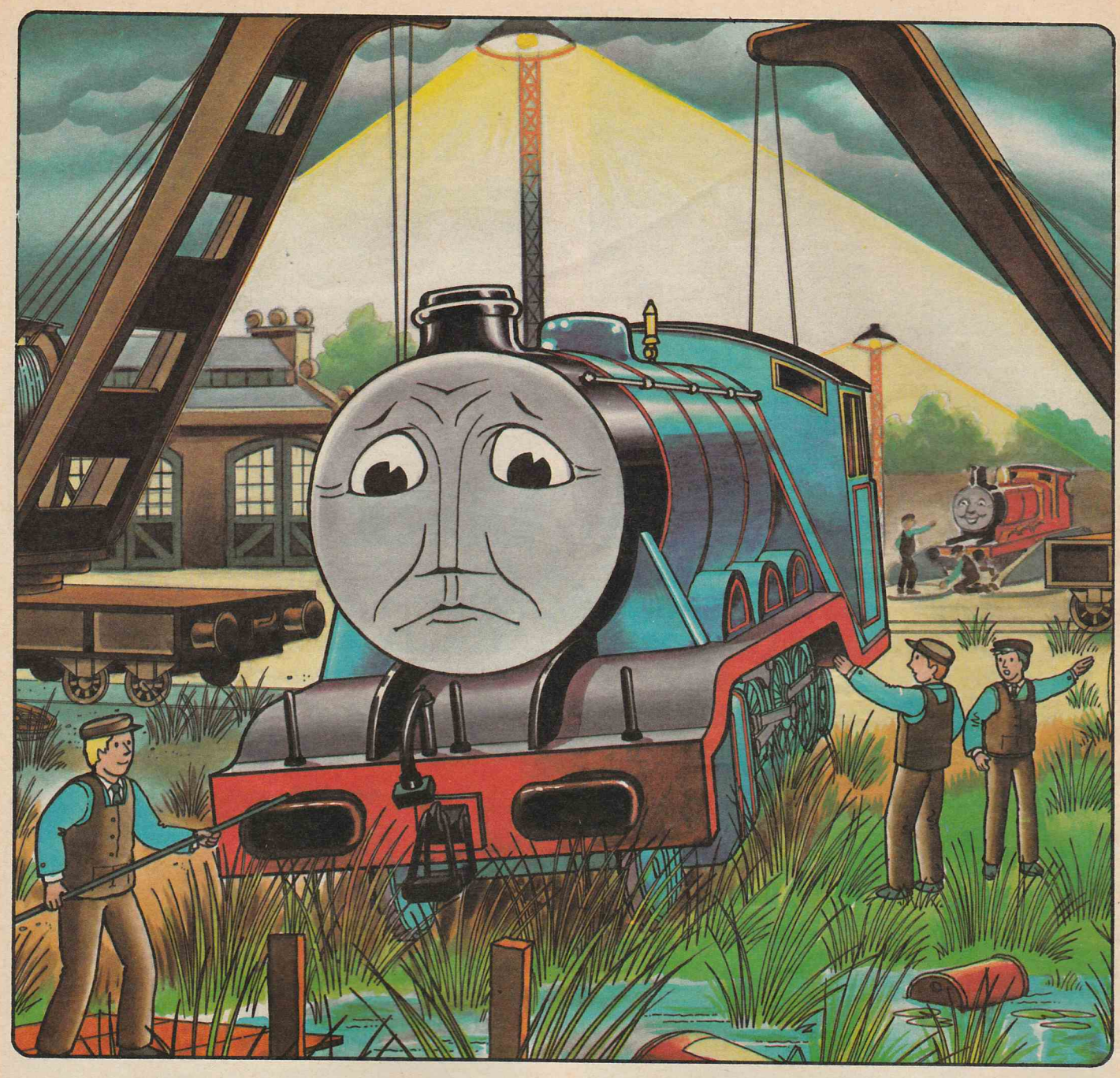
8. Gordon waited till the table was half-way round. "I'll show them! I'll show them," he hissed. He moved slowly forward to 'jam' the table, but he couldn't stop!



9. Gordon slithered into a ditch! "Oooosh!" he hissed. "Get me out!" "Not a hope," said his driver and fireman. "You're stuck, you silly great engine."



10. They telephoned the Fat Controller. "So Gordon did not want to take the Special Train and ran into a ditch," he said. "What's that you say? The Special's waiting!"



11. "Tell Edward to take the Special, please," said the Fat Controller. "Gordon? Oh, leave him where he is. We haven't time to bother with him now." On the other side of the ditch some little boys were chattering. "Coo!" they called. "Doesn't he look silly! They'll never get him out." Then the boys began to sing a song:

12. "Silly old Gordon fell in a ditch, fell in a ditch, fell in a ditch. Silly old Gordon fell in a ditch, all on a Monday morning." "I shall never get out," Gordon thought. But that evening they made a road of sleepers under his wheels. James and Henry pulled him to safety and Gordon crawled home, a sadder and wiser engine.

THE END

In our next issue: Thomas is a little too cheeky!

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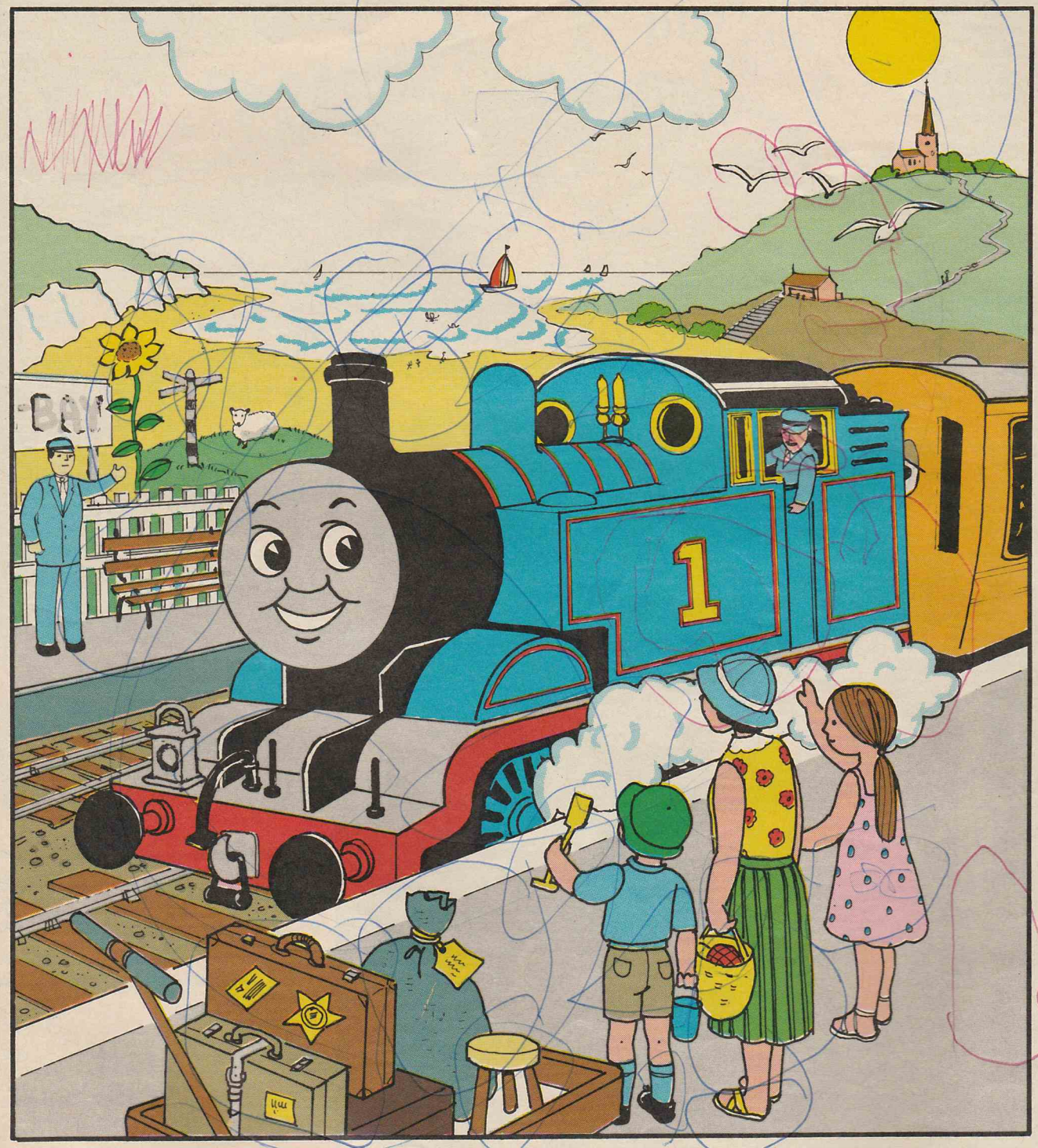
BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

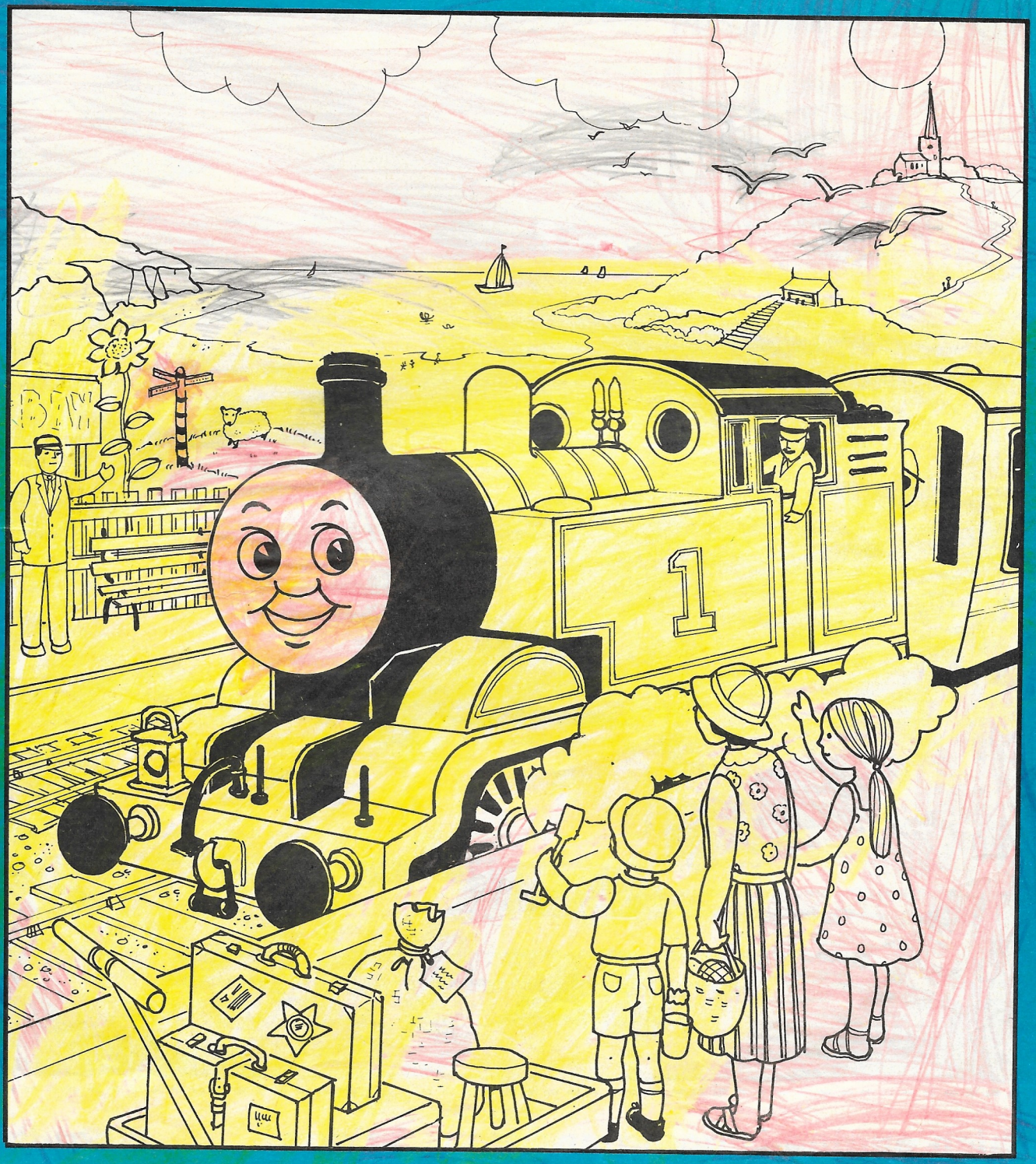
Look at this picture. How many things can you see beginning with S? The answer's below!



Answer

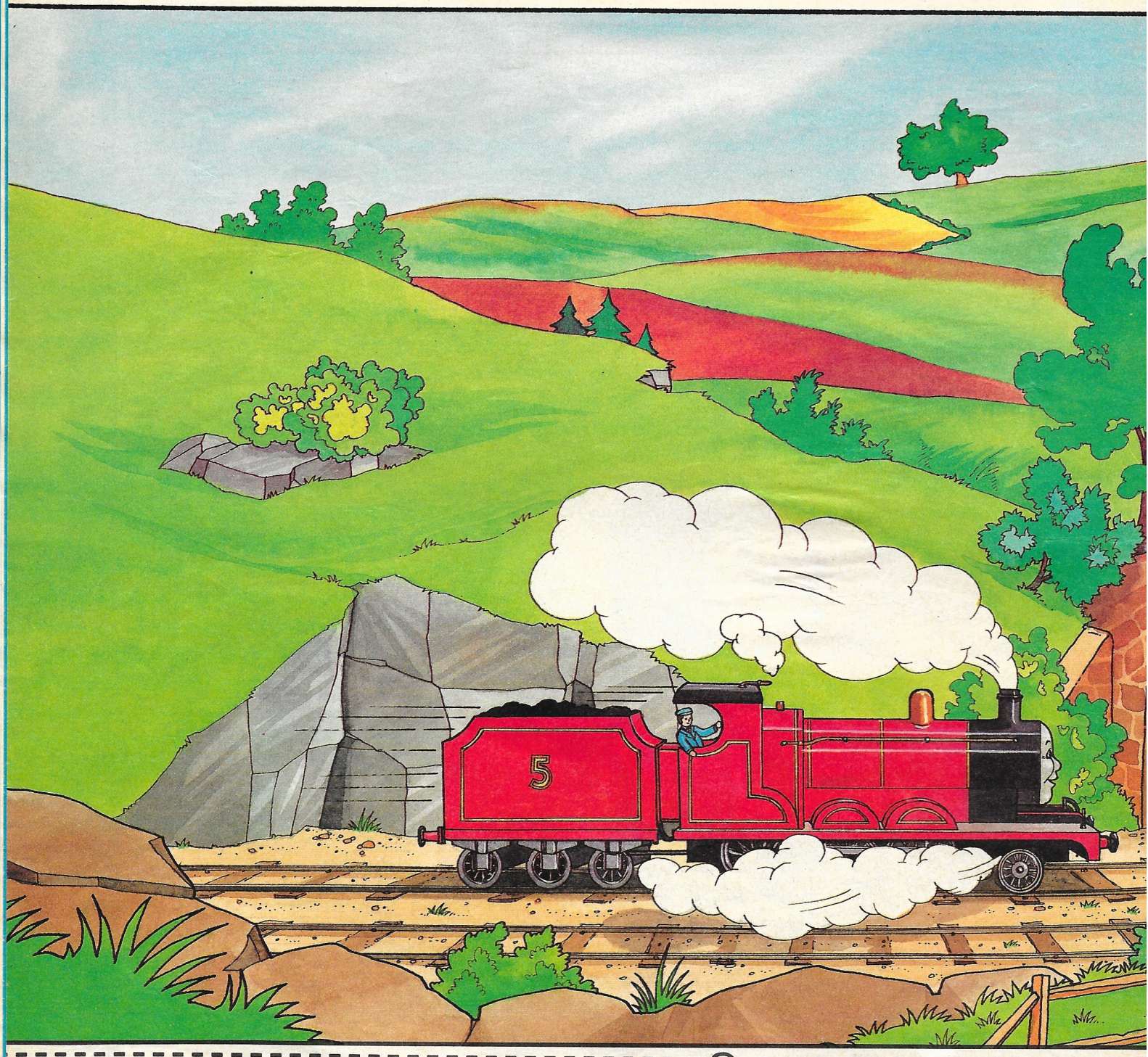
Sky, sea, shore, sunflower, swimmers, sailing boats, scarf, sandals, station, signpost, sheep, seat, sand, shoes, socks, shirt, skirt, suitcases, stool, sack, steam, star, spade, sunhat, sundress, shoulder bag, seagulls, spire, sun, shorts!

COLOURING TIME!



Now colour in this picture, copying the colours from the opposite page.

Under the



Which engine is going under the bridge?

What number is he?

Has he any trucks?

Has he any carriages?

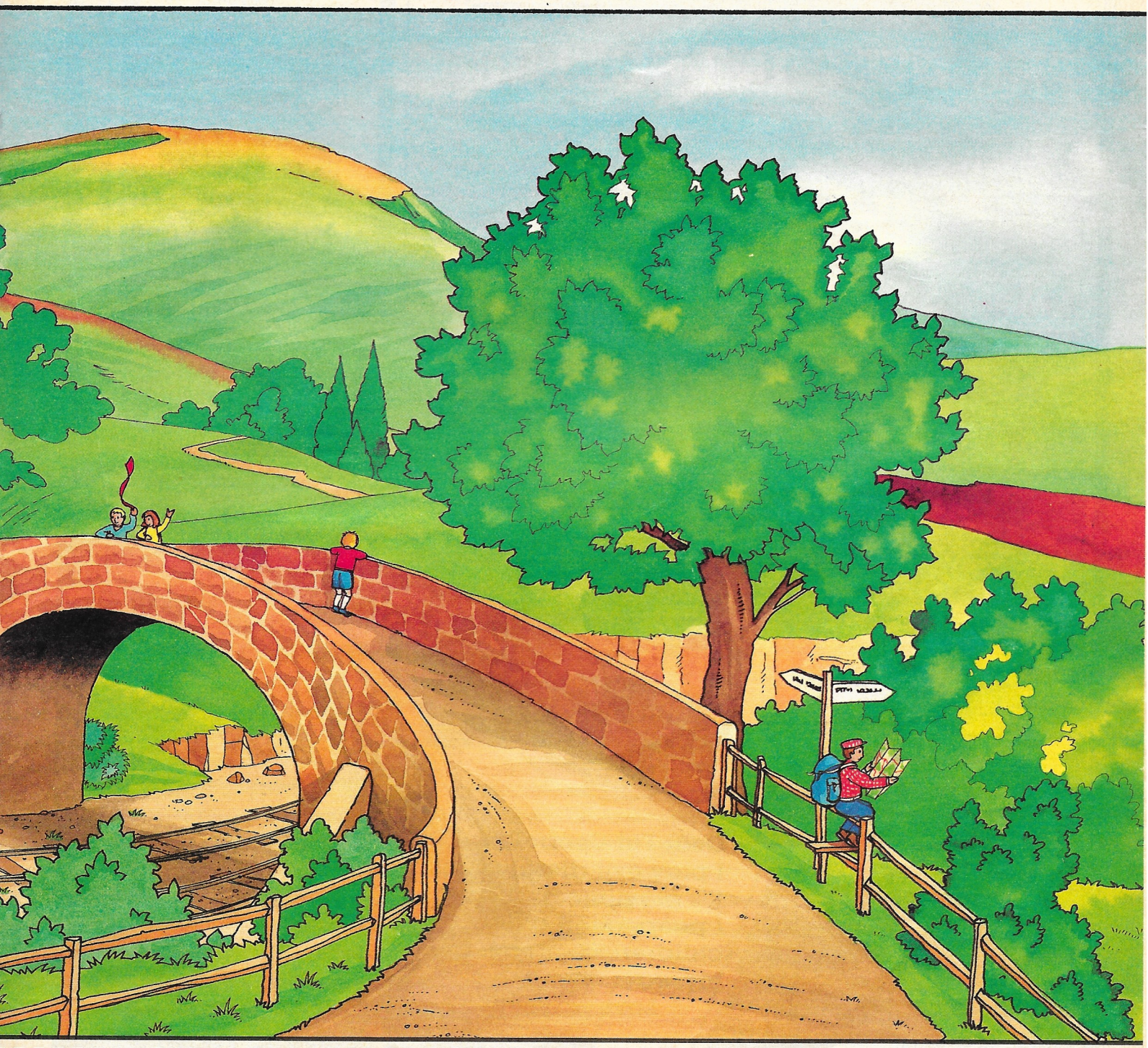
What is the h

Point to the r

What is he d

What colour

bridge!



oy waving?
an on the stile!
ing?
s his rucksack?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the magazine with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There is a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room?

Next: Round the orchard!

Write to:

THE FAT CONTROLLER

Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below! I would be so pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Fat Controller,

When I am eating my dinner I pretend that my mouth is a tunnel and Thomas who is on the end of my fork goes into the tunnel.

From **Shane,** aged 4.

What a splendid idea! And do you always eat your dinner all up, Shane? I am sure you do!

Shane wins a **Thomas the Tank Engine mug,** from *Bluebird!*

PLEASE STOP!

Dear Fat Controller,

Please would you stop telling Percy off for being naughty. I like him very much because the things he says and does sometimes make me laugh. Please, please could you stop telling Percy off.

Love from **Simon.**

I am only ever strict with my engines for good reasons, Simon. Every now and again they need telling off and Percy is no exception. I am very fond of Percy, you know.

LOOK OUT!

Dear Fat Controller,

I play evil diesel when it's playtime at school. I peep to tell other children to get out of my way.

Love from **Julian,** aged 5½.

My diesels are very well behaved, Julian. I do hope you are.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Graham Stallard, Fergal Maguire, Jonathan Hurst, Christopher Whyborn, Claire Cameron, Gemma Boileau, Laura Jones, Alister Gorringe, Ewan Hannah, Christopher Rathbone, Ian Minton, David Whalley, Michael Munns, Kevin Wilson, David Kottaun, David Walsh, Adam Endacott, Michael Rawsthorne, Adam Burchell, Sarah James, Shaun Collinson, Mickey Smith, Darren Carter, Oliver Jones, Steven Ash, Michael Dunne, Christopher Royle, Matthew Prosser, John Rodger, Alan Whitfield and his brother, Ian Madden, Nicola Hesketh, Steven Staley, Steven Long, Ashley Charleston, Mark Hatton, Lee Harris, Steven Kettlewell, Scott Dixon, Ian Bettles, Christopher Pipe, Paul Gavin, Philip Roberts, Oscar Stankard, Martyn Beeby, Neil Garratt, Ashley and Rebecca Watson, Robert Footit, Paul Clowes, Adrian Young, Simon Manseri, Richard Gibson and Grant Demeza!

If you'd like a birthday mention, send details on a postcard, at least **8 weeks in advance.**

Yours,

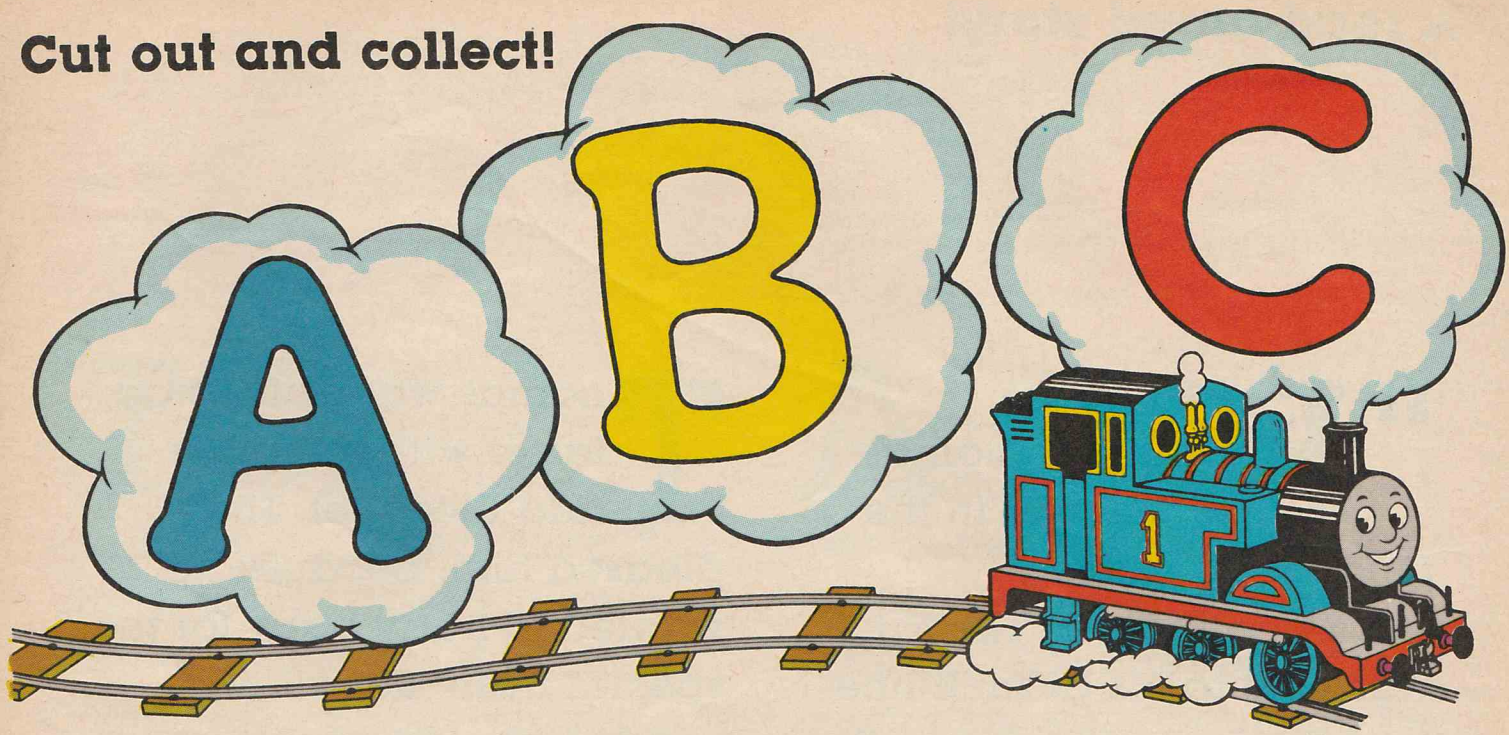
Sir Topham Hatt

The Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.

Cut out and collect!



Nn

9

number nine

A read-aloud story!

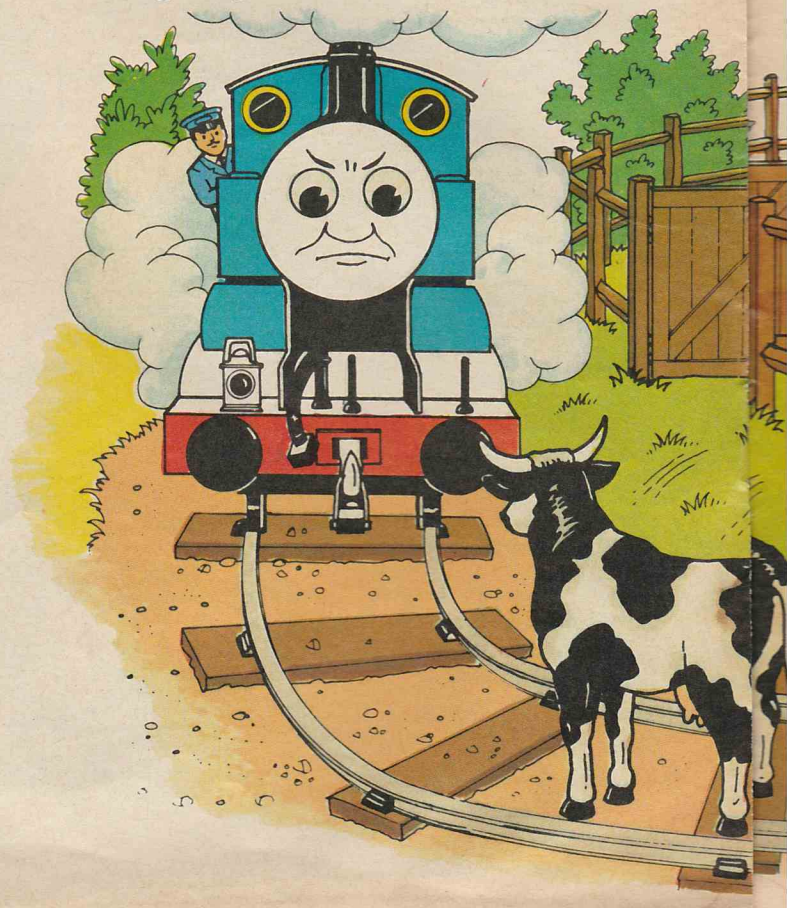
Thomas and

"Peep! Peep!" whistled Thomas to the cow in the field, as he passed McConnell's farm. The farm was next to his branch line, and Thomas always whistled to the cow as he pulled Annie and Clarabel towards the last station.

When they arrived, the station master hurried over with an urgent message from the Fat Controller. "Thomas must return to the main station now," he said. "The Fat Controller needs him to pull a special train."

"A special train," thought Thomas proudly, while Annie and Clarabel were uncoupled. "A special train! And I am to pull it! I am to pull it!" said Thomas to himself as his fireman stoked up the fire to make lots of steam, and they chuffed back down the branch line.

Thomas was able to go faster without Annie and Clarabel. That pleased him, because he wanted to hurry back for the special train. But all of a sudden, the driver was shutting off the steam again, and putting on the brakes. "Oh no," puffed Thomas, "there's the cow from McConnell's farm, and she's standing right on the track!"



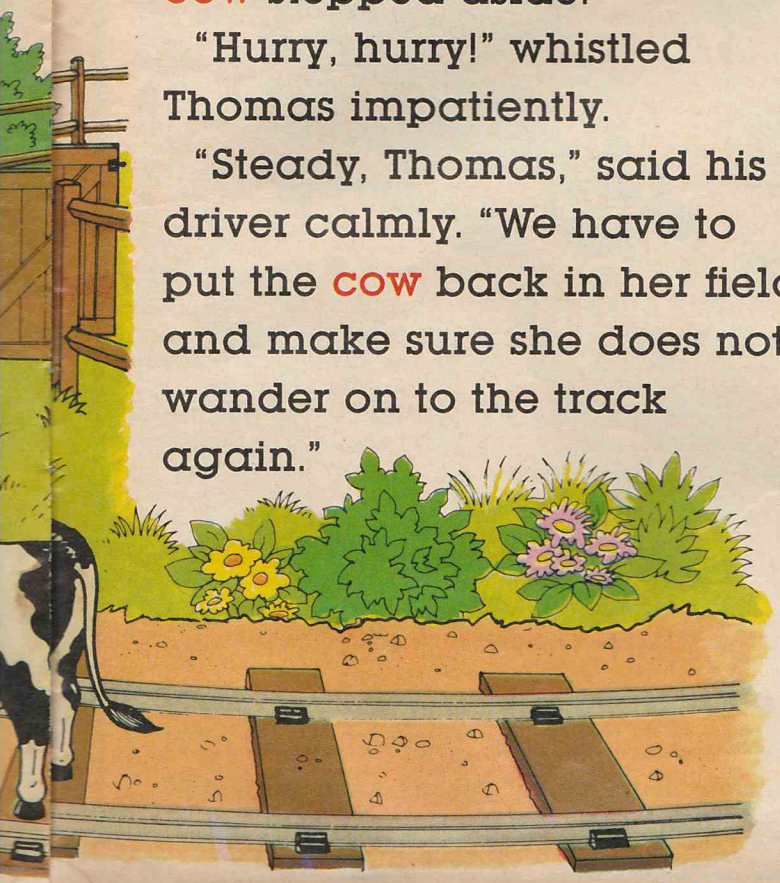
the Cows

Thomas came to a halt. The driver blew his whistle, but the cow didn't move. "Peep! Peep! You must move," hissed Thomas, letting out a cloud of steam. "The Fat Controller might give the special train to another engine if we are late."

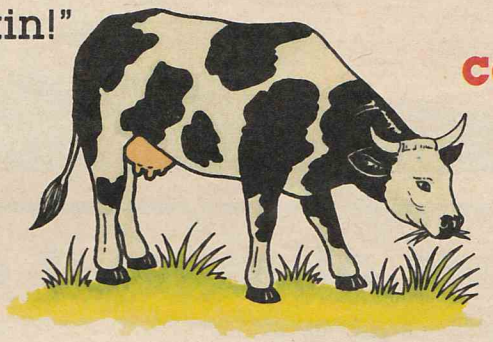
But it wasn't until the driver and the fireman climbed down on to the track that the cow stepped aside.

"Hurry, hurry!" whistled Thomas impatiently.

"Steady, Thomas," said his driver calmly. "We have to put the cow back in her field and make sure she does not wander on to the track again."



At last it was done. "Peeeeep!" whistled Thomas angrily as they puffed away once more. "Bother that cow," thought Thomas. "She has cost us so much time we're bound to be too late for that special train!"



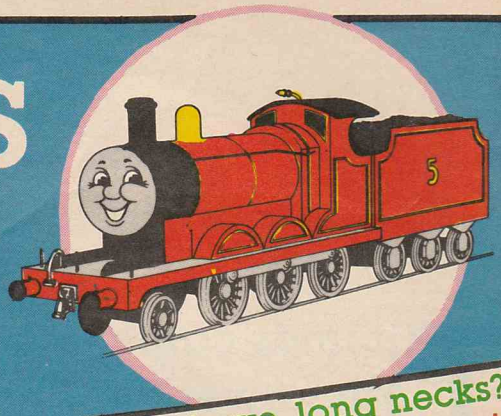
COW

When Thomas pulled into the main station he was relieved to see that the Fat Controller hadn't given the special train to another engine at all.

But as Thomas drew nearer his heart sank. There in the siding were three brown cattle trucks, and they were full of mooing cows, all waiting for Thomas to take them to McConnell's farm!

THE END

JAMES'S JAPES



Thank you for sending us all your funny jokes. Here are a few of James's favourites!

Why did the man throw the clock out of the window?
Because he wanted to see time fly!
Hilary-Ann.

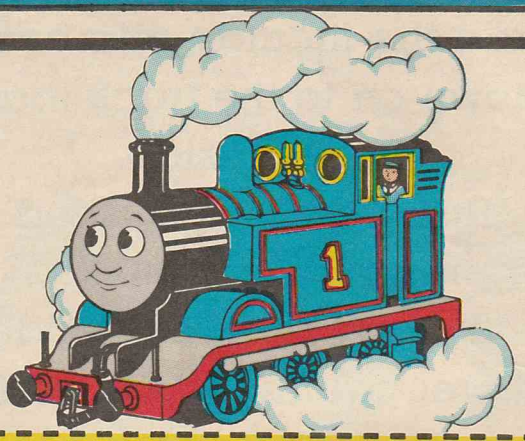
Why do giraffes have long necks?
Because they have got smelly feet!
Alex.

What is dark but made by light?
A shadow!
Tom.

What did one tonsil sasy to the other?
Get dressed! The doctor's taking us out tonight!
Paul.

What sits on the seabed and shakes?
A nervous wreck!
Marie.

News of a great offer!



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Name.....

Age..... **Birthday**.....

Address.....

.....

Signature of parent/guardian.....

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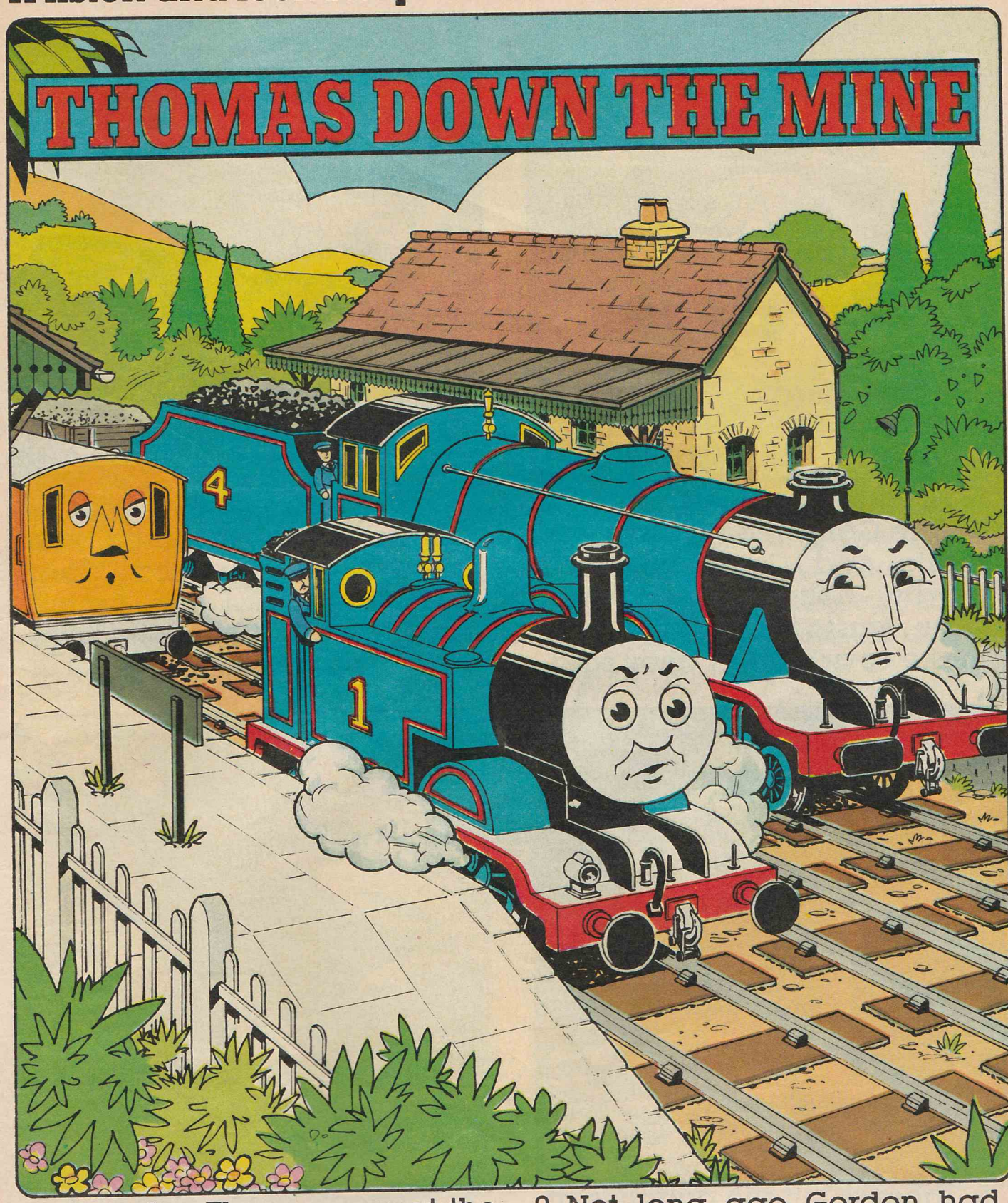
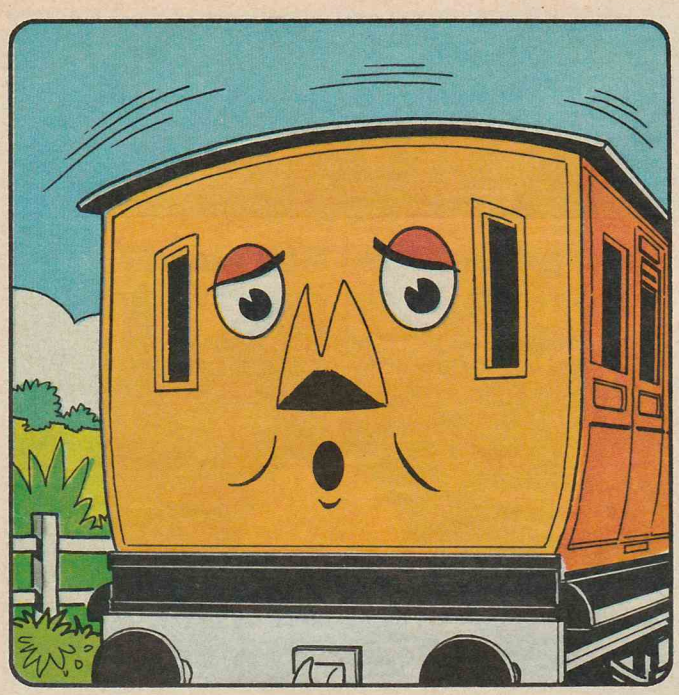
A listen and look story!



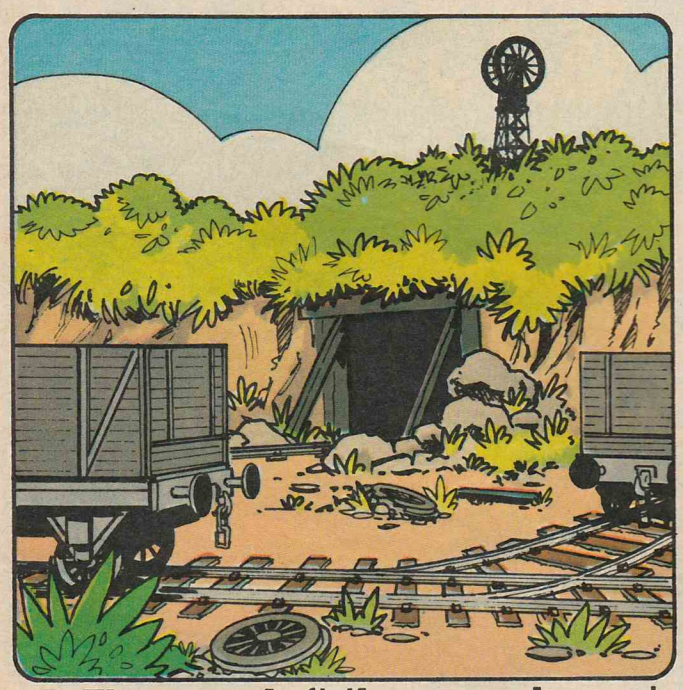
1. One day Thomas was at the junction as Gordon shuffled in with some trucks. "Poof! Poof! What a funny smell," Thomas remarked. "Can you smell a funny, musty sort of smell?"

2. Not long ago Gordon had fallen into a dirty ditch. Thomas enjoyed teasing him about it. "Annie, Clarabel, do you know what I think it is?" he said. "Ditchwater!"

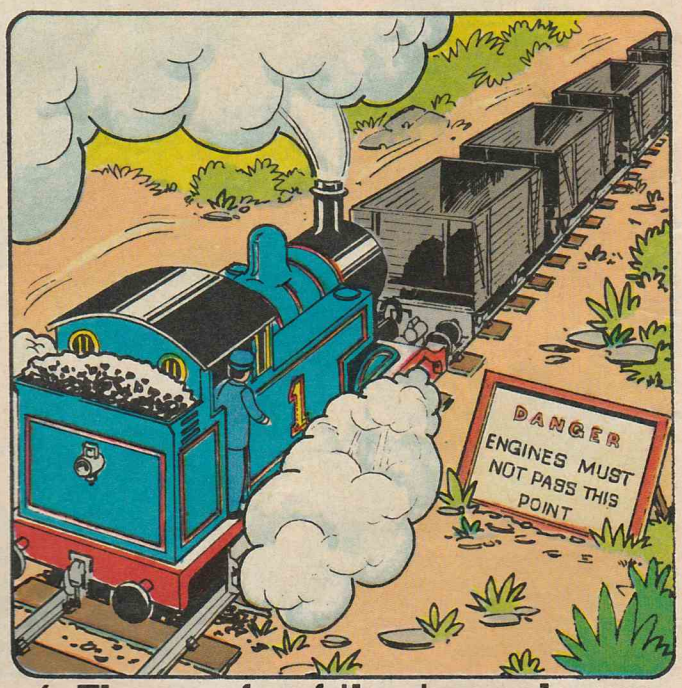


3. Thomas puffed away before Gordon could answer. Annie and Clarabel could hardly believe their ears. "You mustn't be rude, you make us ashamed," they said.

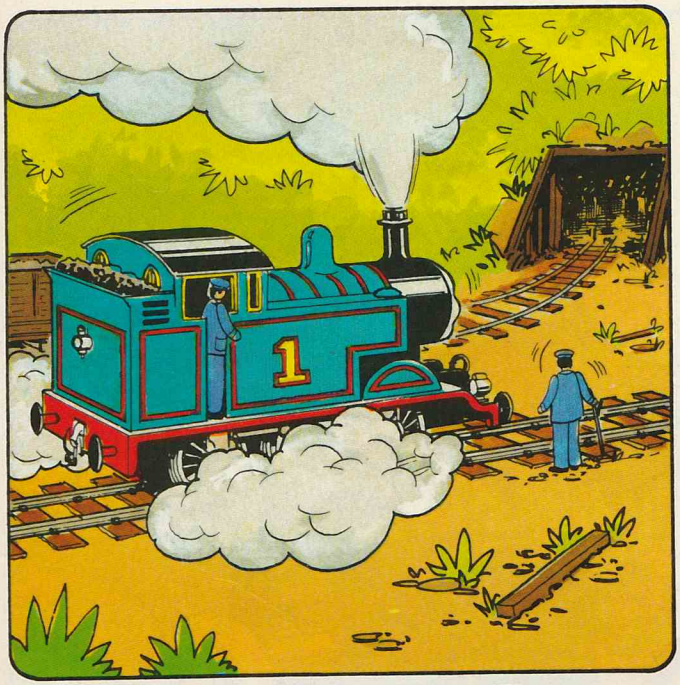
4. But Thomas didn't care a bit. He felt very pleased with himself. He chuckled, "That was funny, that was funny." Annie and Clarabel were deeply shocked.



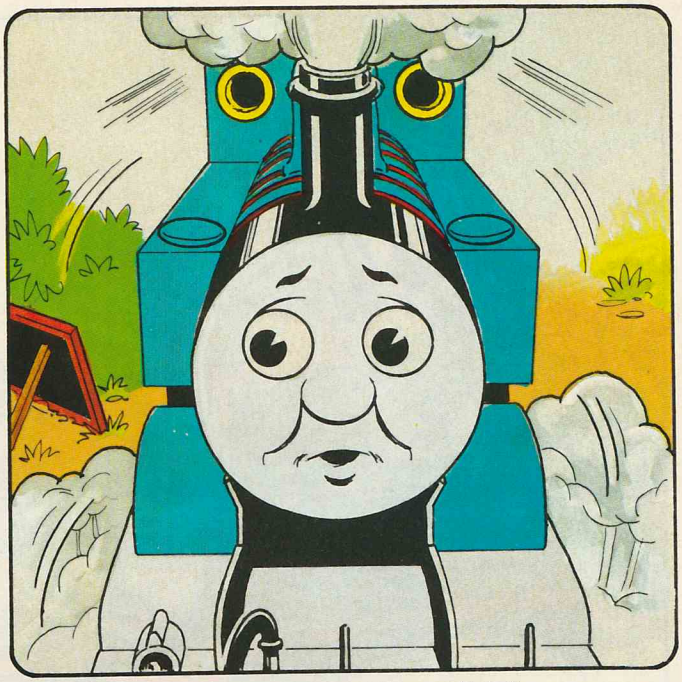
5. Thomas left the coaches at the station and went off to a mine for some trucks. Long ago miners digging for lead had made tunnels which spread under the ground.



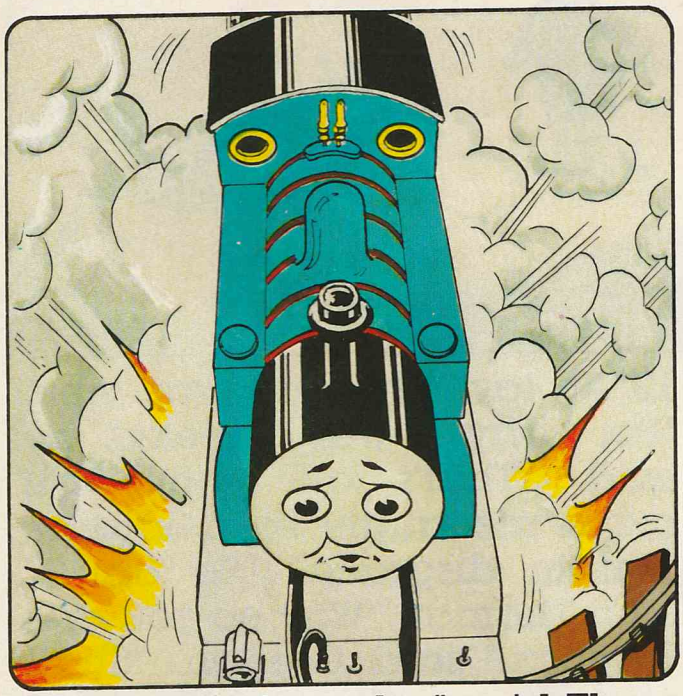
6. The roofs of the tunnels are strong enough to hold trucks but not the weight of heavy engines. A large sign warns them, "DANGER! ENGINES MUST NOT PASS THIS POINT".



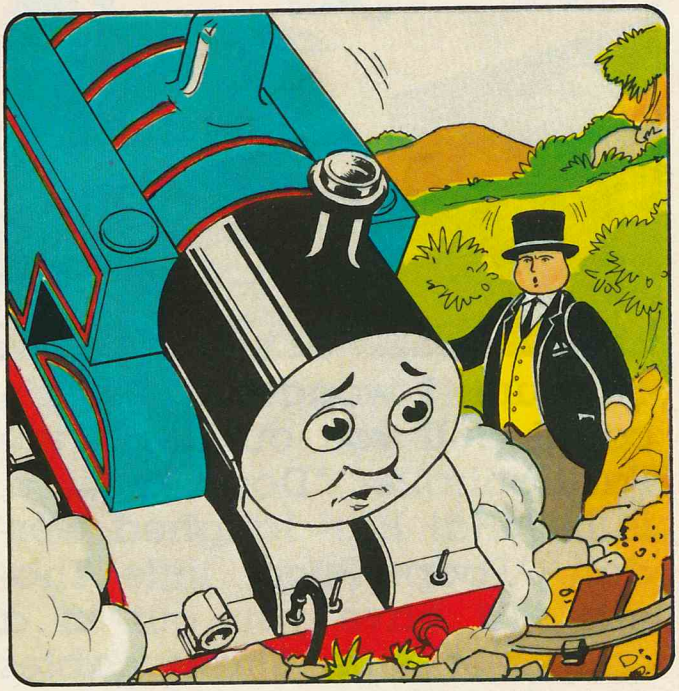
7. "Silly old board," Thomas thought. He had often tried to pass it but had never succeeded. But this morning he had a plan. The fireman went to turn the points.



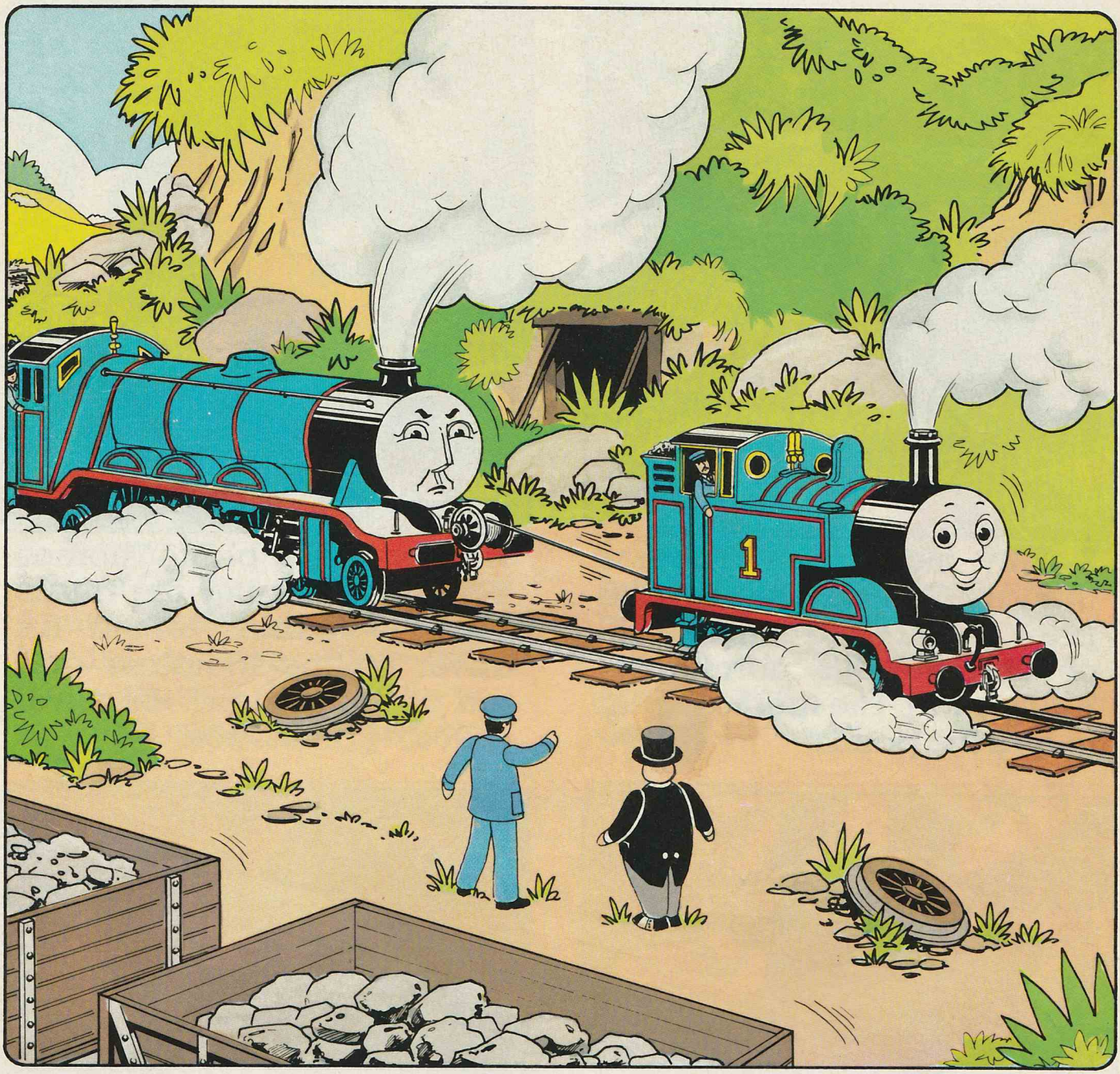
8. "Now for my plan," Thomas thought. Bumping the trucks fiercely, Thomas jerked his driver off the footplate and ran past the board. His driver yelled, "Come back!"



9. "Fire and smoke," said Thomas. "I'm sunk!" . . . and he was. "Oh, dear," he said. "I am a silly engine." "And a very naughty one too," said the Fat Controller.



10. "Please get me out. I won't be naughty again," said Thomas. "We can't lift you out with a crane," said the Fat Controller. "The ground is not firm enough."



11. "Hum. I wonder if Gordon could pull you out," said the Fat Controller. "Down a mine, is he? Ha! Ha!" laughed Gordon. "Poop! Poop, little Thomas. I'll have you out in a couple of puffs." Strong cables were fastened between the two engines. "Are you ready? **Heave!"** said the Fat Controller, but it was a lot harder than they thought.

12. At last Thomas was free. "I'm sorry I was cheeky," he said. "That's all right. You made me laugh!" said Gordon. "I'm in disgrace." "So am I," said Thomas. "Why, so you are, Thomas," said Gordon. "Shall we form an alliance? You help me and I'll help you." "Right you are," said Thomas, and buffer to buffer the allies puffed home.

THE END

In our next issue: Edward has an accident!